

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: STATE 10 MAY PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE REGULAR STATE DEPARTMENT
PRESS BRIEFING OF 10 MAY FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP TO AFRICA: AMBASSADOR ANDREW
YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, IO, C. WILLIAM
MAYNES, OTHER STATE OFFICIALS, AND A DELEGATION FROM THE
U.S. PRESS, WILL VISIT SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND
PORTUGAL.

THEY LEAVE TODAY BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND WILL FLY TO
ABIDJAN FOR THE COM ON MAY 10 TO 12.

ON MAY 13TH AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL BE VISITING ACCRA.

Q: WITH MR. MAYNES?

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A: YES, I BELIEVE THAT MR. MAYNES WILL CONTINUE WITH HIM.
ACCRA, GHANA, AND LAGOS, NIGERIA, WHERE YOUNG WILL CONFER
WITH NATIONAL LEADERS.

ON MAY 14TH HE WILL FLY TO LISBON TO MEET WITH MONDALE.

ONE SMALL PIECE ON BACKGROUND: THERE MAY BE OTHER AFRICAN

STOPS. END BACKGROUND.

ON MAY 16TH, THE PARTY WILL PROCEED TO MAPUTO TO ATTEND THE U.N.-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. THAT MEETING GOES TO MAY 21ST.

THE OBVIOUS QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA. WE ARE STILL WORKING ON THAT. WE HAVE REQUESTED SOUTH AFRICAN PERMISSION FOR THE VISIT, AND WE ARE AWAITING THEIR REPLY.

Q: IS IT STILL UNCERTAIN THAT HE WILL GO TO SOUTH AFRICA, OR IS THE UNCERTAINTY WHAT HE WILL DO IN SOUTH AFRICA? A STOP IN SOUTH AFRICA IS STILL NOT CERTAIN?

A: WE HAVE REQUESTED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT, AND WE ARE AWAITING THEIR REPLY.

Q: YOUR BACKGROUND, WHERE DOES IT FIT INTO THE SCHEDULE?

A: I DON'T HAVE WHERE IT WOULD FIT IN. OBVIOUSLY IT HAS TO BE AFTER THE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING. IT IS STRICTLY ON BACKGROUND TO GIVE YOU THE SENSE THAT THERE MAY BE OTHER STOPS ADDED, BUT I CAN'T BE PRECISE AS TO WHICH AND WHEN.

Q: YOU MEAN OTHER STOPS BEFORE THE MEETING IN MOZAMBIQUE, IN OTHER WORDS.

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A: I WOULD PRESUME IT IS BEFORE MAY 16TH.

Q: IS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP STILL PRIVATE IF HE GOES TO SOUTH AFRICA?

A: IT IS JUST THE WAY WE CHARACTERIZED IT ON FRIDAY.

Q: SO WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN IT?

Q: IS PERMISSION BEING SOUGHT FOR HIM TO TAKE THE AIR FORCE PLANE INTO JOHANNESBURG FROM MAPUTO? WILL HE BE GOING ON A U.S. GOVERNMENT PLANE?

A: I HAVEN'T ANY IDEA ABOUT THAT.

Q: THIS IS A POINT WE RAISED WITH YOU ON FRIDAY. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY INFORMATION ON IT?

A: ON BACKGROUND, I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE OFFICIAL AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED TO GO INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

Q: CAN YOU CHECK ON THIS POINT, PLEASE?

A: I WILL. ONCE THE TRIP IS TIED DOWN FURTHER.

Q: WHY IS HE GOING TO LISBON?

A: THAT IS THE END OF THE BACKGROUND PART. HE IS GOING TO MEET WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.

Q: WELL, HE COULD MEET WITH HIM HERE OR IN NEW YORK.

A: THE PLAN IS TO MEET HIM IN LISBON.

Q: TO DO WHAT? DISCUSS THE SOUTH AFRICAN --?
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A: I CERTAINLY PRESUME THAT WOULD BE ONE OF THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED. OTHER THAN THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

Q: WHY ARE YOU INVOLVED IN IT AT ALL IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA?

A: HE IS A HIGH PUBLIC OFFICIAL. AND INEVITABLY WE ARE INVOLVED IN IT, GIVEN THE CONNOTATIONS.

Q: SO IT ISN'T REALLY PRIVATE.

A: THE LINE BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BECOMES VERY THIN, BUT WE HAVE CHARACTERIZED IT AS A PRIVATE VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF THE UNIVERSITY AND OF SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESSMEN. THAT ASPECT OF IT IS PRIVATE. BUT AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY A PUBLIC FIGURE OF CABINET RANK, AND, AS SUCH, HAS AN OFFICIAL CHARACTER.

Q: ARE YOU INVOLVED ONLY TO GET HIM A VISA?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE NATURE OF ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS WE ARE INVOLVED WITH, BUT WE ARE CERTAINLY IN CONTACT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO FACILITATE OBTAINING PERMISSION AND GETTING HIM INTO THE COUNTRY.

Q: ONE REASON FOR PRESSING THIS POINT ABOUT A PRIVATE VISIT IS THAT THERE ARE NOW SOME NEWS STORIES THAT INDICATE THAT NOW, WHEN IT IS ALL SETTLED, HE WILL SEE PRIME MINISTER VORSTER.

A: I SAID ON FRIDAY THAT HE HAD NO PRESENT PLANS TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THERE, BUT, OBVIOUSLY, IF AN INVITATION ARISES, HE WOULD CONSIDER IT.

Q: DOES HE HAVE ANY PLANS TO MEET WITH BLACK LEADERS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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RHODESIA?

A: I DON'T KNOW OF ANY SUCH PLANS.

Q: YOU DON'T KNOW OF ANY SUCH PLANS. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND HALF OF YOUR ANSWER TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS -- HE WOULD CONSIDER IT IF HE WERE ASKED.

A: OBVIOUSLY, IF AN INVITATION WERE EXTENDED, HE, LIKE ANYONE ELSE, WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER IT.

Q: IF YOU HAVE TO WORK ON FACILITATING GETTING HIM INTO THE COUNTRY, IS THE IMPLICATION THERE THAT HE IS HAVING DIFFICULTY GETTING PERMISSION?

A: NO, I WOULDN'T CHARACTERIZE IT AS DIFFICULTY. OBVIOUSLY, HE IS A PROMINENT PERSON, AND THAT TAKES ON AN OFFICIAL CHARACTER IN TERMS OF OUR SUPPORTING HIS REQUEST, AND REQUESTING PERMISSION FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

Q: BUT ON A PRIVATE VISIT, AN ORDINARY AMERICAN CAN GET A VISA IN A DAY.

A: I THINK WE SAID LAST WEEK THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY HIS HOSTS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND THE BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED. WE ARE SUPPORTING THAT AND REQUESTING THE GOVERNMENT TO DO THE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO ENTER THE COUNTRY.

Q: DOES THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVE OF ANDREW YOUNG GOING TO AFRICA NOW, PARTICULARLY SOUTH AFRICA?

A: I AM SURE HE DOES.

Q: LAST MONTH, ANDREW YOUNG SAID HE HATES TO HAVE ANYTHING UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DO WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. IS THIS AN

APPROPRIATE PERSON, THEN, TO SEND TO SOUTH AFRICA, IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THINGS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG MAY HAVE SAID LAST WEEK OR THE WEEK BEFORE, OR WHAT HAVE YOU. HIS VISIT HAS THE SUPPORT AND APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT. IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED AT THE

SENIOR LEVEL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHORTLY AFTER HE RECEIVED THESE INVITATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND THE BUSINESSMEN.

I MIGHT ADD THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WAS INFORMED OF AND AGREED TO THE TRIP.

Q: MR. YOUNG, OR AMBASSADOR YOUNG, SAID THAT -- I AM QUOTING FREELY HERE BECAUSE I WASN'T THERE -- HE THOUGHT THAT A LOT OF THE CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN STIRRED UP BY THE PRESS AND BY LEAKS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. IS THAT HIS PROBLEM? HAS THE PRESS BEEN UNKIND TO ANDREW YOUNG?

A: I WOULDN'T WANT TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN UNKIND AT ALL. THAT IS NOT MY POSITION TO STAND UP HERE AND CHASTISE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO VENTURE AN OPINION ON THAT.

Q: WHEN YOU ARE GETTING ALL THE INFORMATION TOGETHER ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG, YOU WILL ALSO GET THE INFORMATION ON THOSE THREE QUESTIONS I ASKED ON FRIDAY RELATIVE AS TO WHO IS PAYING FOR THE TRIP, IS AMBASSADOR YOUNG GETTING ANY HONORARIUM FOR HIS SPEECHES --

A: YES.

Q: AND WHAT ABOUT THE ESCORT?
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A: YES.

Q: WHEN DO YOU EXPECT A REPLY FROM SOUTH AFRICA ON WHETHER OR NOT THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE OKAYED?

A: NO INDICATION AS TO TIMING.

Q: BY THE DEPARTMENT GETTING IN COMMUNICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA, IS THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR CONDITION THAT MR. YOUNG GO THROUGH -- QUOTE -- NORMAL CHANNELS -- UNQUOTE?

A: I THINK IT WOULD BE NORMAL FOR US TO SUPPORT HIS TRIP

IN THIS MANNER IN ANY EVENT.

Q: WHEN WILL THE VICE PRESIDENT SEE MR. VORSTER IN VIENNA?
IS THIS BEFORE HIS MEETING IN LISBON WITH ANDREW YOUNG?

A: THE MEETING WITH VORSTER IS AFTER THE MEETING WITH
AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OVER THE
WEEKEND THAT SAID THAT THERE ARE OVER 20,000 CUBANS IN
ANGOLA. THE FIGURE THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN OVER THE LAST HALF
YEAR IS 10 TO 13 OR 15,000 AT THE MOST AND THEY HAVE SAID
THAT THEY HAVE PULLED OUT TROOPS. THERE SEEMS TO BE A
DISPARITY OF ABOUT 5,000 MORE CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA. CAN
YOU CONFIRM THAT THERE ARE THAT MANY?

A: THE DEPARTMENT IS STICKING WITH ITS FIGURE OF 12 TO
14,000.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY GOT THAT FIGURE?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA. CHRISTOPHER

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